

BLL 60+

Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention (SHARP)
PO Box 44330, Olympia, WA 98504-4330 (360) 902-5669

Date

Dear Employer:

Preventing lead poisoning is a national priority. Blood lead levels above 25 µg/dl are associated with several serious health problems. The goal of the US Public Health Service is to eliminate workplace exposures that result in workers having blood lead levels greater than 25 µg/dl.

In Washington State, all blood lead test results that are likely to be caused by occupational exposure are provided to the Department of Labor and Industries' (L&I) Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention (SHARP) program. SHARP's goal is to inform, educate, and provide technical assistance to companies and industries that present risks of lead exposure to employees and owners. **SHARP is not a "rules and regulations" branch of L&I and therefore does not enforce regulations, compliance or penalties.**

Through our occupational lead poisoning registry, we learned that at least one of your employees recently had a significantly elevated blood lead level. This indicates that present safeguards against employee lead poisoning may not be effective. We consider an elevated lead level to be a potentially serious health problem and would like to work with you to correct this. The three options you may pursue to address your lead overexposure situation are:

- 1) Direct assistance from our SHARP research program,
- 2) Assistance from L&I's WISHA consultation program, or
- 3) Services of a private industrial hygiene firm.

All three of these programs are confidential and without risk of penalty. The first two choices would also be free of charge. Because of the reported blood lead level, we would like to ensure that you pursue one of these options as soon as possible.

Please contact us to discuss this situation. If you have not confirmed with us your choice for technical assistance within one week from receipt of this letter, we will have no choice but to refer your case to the WISHA compliance program. However, we would prefer to work with you to address this issue cooperatively.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide any assistance. You may also contact <Name of Regional Compliance Officer> of the regional Labor and Industries office at <Phone Number>. We look forward to working with you to address this important health issue.

Sincerely,

Enclosures